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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 2016

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 2016 (A/71/401 and A/71/401/Add.1). During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 7 November 2016.

2. During its 2016 and 2017 sessions, the Economic and Social Council adopted five resolutions, two decisions and one ministerial declaration in which it approved additional activities requiring modifications to the programme of work.[1] Summaries of the related additional requirements are annexed to the reports of the Secretary-General.

3. In respect of the report concerning the resolutions and the ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its 2016 session (A/71/401), requirements amounting to $34,500 would be accommodated within the 2016-2017 appropriation and the amount of $180,000 would be accommodated within the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A. Additional resources in the amount of $2,872,200 would be required for the biennium 2016-2017.

[1] Economic and Social Council resolutions 2016/10, 2016/11, 2016/12, 2016/28, 2017/2, decisions 2017/205, 2017/206; and ministerial declaration E/HLS/2016/1.

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4. In respect of the report concerning the resolution and decisions adopted by the Council at its 2017 session during 2016 (A/71/401/Add.1), requirements amounting to $556,000 would be accommodated within the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A, and additional resources of $556,000 would be required for the biennium 2016-2017.

5. The additional requirements over and above the resources approved in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 would require an additional appropriation, and as such would represent a charge against the contingency fund (A/71/401, para. 81, and A/71/401/Add.1, para. 26). As the Advisory Committee makes related observations and recommendations in its report on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/71/632), the present report should be read in conjunction with that report.

II. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 2016

A. Resolution 2016/10: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. In its resolution 2016/10, the Council endorsed the strategy and plan of action of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as set out in Commission resolution 322 (XXVIII). The Executive Committee of the Commission requested the secretariat of the Commission to submit periodic reports on the activities carried out in implementation of the strategy and plan of action and to take all necessary measures, including the provision of human and financial resources and the creation of a technical unit attached to it, for that purpose (A/71/401, paras. 6 and 7).

7. The Secretary-General indicates that the implementation of the requests contained in resolution 2016/10 would require additional recurrent activities and resource requirements under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., para. 8). Proposed resource requirements for the biennium (ibid., table 8) would amount to $1,893,600, comprising:

(a) $283,000 for four temporary posts (1 Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), 1 Economic Affairs Officer (P-3), 1 Social Affairs Officer (P-3) and 1 Administrative Assistant (Local level)), with effect from 1 January 2017 until 2030 (ibid., para. 11 (a));

(b) $673,800 for consultants;

(c) $686,600 for experts;

(d) $136,000 for travel of staff;

(e) $114,200 for contractual services.

The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that all the temporary posts in the report were proposed for the period from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2030.

8. According to the Secretary-General, the implementation of the requests contained in resolution 2016/10 would require modifications to outputs under subprogrammes 1 to 7 of section 22 of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., paras. 26-39).

B. Resolution 2016/11: Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

9. In its resolution 2016/11, the Council endorsed the actions requested by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in paragraph 7 of its resolution 72/6, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, to support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, and to strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach (ibid., para. 40).

10. According to the report of the Secretary-General, the implementation of those requests would require additional annual activities and resources, starting in 2017, under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., para. 41). Proposed resource requirements for the biennium (ibid., table 12) would amount to $488,600, comprising:

(a) $163,600 for temporary posts (1 Programme Officer (P-4) and 1 Statistician (P-4)), with effect from 2017 until 2030 (ibid., paras. 42 (a) and 46 (a));

(b) $50,000 for consultants;

(c) $238,800 for experts;

(d) $26,200 for travel of staff;

(e) $10,000 for contractual services.

11. In addition, the implementation of the requests contained in resolution 2016/11 would require modifications to outputs under subprogrammes 4, 6 and 7 of section 19 of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., paras. 50-54).

C. Resolution 2016/12: Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

12. In its resolution 2016/12, the Council endorsed the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as set out in Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 700 (XXXVI), entailing additional recurrent activities and resources under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., paras. 55 and 56). The Secretary-General

requests additional resources for the biennium (ibid., table 13) in the amount of $130,000, comprising:

(a) $60,000 for other staff costs;

(b) $30,000 for travel of staff;

(c) $10,000 for contractual services;

(d) $6,000 for general operating expenses;

(e) $4,000 for supplies and materials;

(f) $20,000 for consultants.

13. The implementation of the requests contained in resolution 2016/12 would require modifications, including the addition of new recurrent outputs, under the executive direction and management component of section 21 of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., para. 61).

14. The Advisory Committee recalls that in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/71/534), the Secretary-General indicated that that report replaced his previous report on the question (A/70/794) (see A/71/534, para. 2). The Committee notes that the explanatory paragraphs on resolutions 2016/10, 2016/11 and 2016/12 (see A/71/401) reflect language similar to that contained in the supplementary information provided on the three regional commissions in the context of document A/70/794.

15. Upon enquiry as to other regional commissions, the Advisory Committee was informed that while Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) resolutions 938 (XLIX), on integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development, and 939 (XLIX), on the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, were brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, no action was requested of or taken by the Council. With respect to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Committee was informed that the biennial session of ECE was last held in April 2015, prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee was further informed that ECE member States were of the view that all financial and budgetary issues relating to the Commission were to be addressed through the Fifth Committee, and that ECE resource requirements for the 2030 Agenda were submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/247.

16. With respect to the resources for Africa and Europe, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as there were no Economic and Social Council resolutions endorsing mandates related to ECA and ECE, no appropriation was sought for the two regions in the report of the Secretary-General. Upon enquiry as to which countries in the two regions received technical assistance from ECA and ECE, the Committee was informed that all countries in Africa benefited from technical assistance through ECA, including 34 least developed countries, while ECE supported all countries in the region, including 19 middle-income countries, in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

D. Resolution 2016/28: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

17. By its resolution 2016/28, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2017 session, requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources, and requested the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work to the Council for consideration at its 2017 session (ibid., para. 62).

18. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would amount to $34,500 for the travel of members of the Group ($27,000) and two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($5,000) and meetings support services in Haiti ($2,500). The Secretary-General proposes that those resource requirements be accommodated within section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., paras. 63 and 64).

E. Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

Ministerial declaration of the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme "Ensuring that no one is left behind"

19. The report states that under the terms of paragraph 22 of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Council and of the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the ministers and high representatives endorsed the outcome of the process of consultation on the scope, methodology and frequency of the Global Sustainable Development Report as well as its relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals progress report (ibid., para. 66).

20. It is indicated that additional requirements would amount to $540,000 for the biennium 2016-2017, of which $180,000 would be accommodated through the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A. The Secretary-General requests additional resources in the amount of $360,000 under section 9 of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., table 16).

21. The implementation of the requests contained in the ministerial declaration would require modifications under section 9, including revisions to recurrent outputs under subprogramme 3, Sustainable development (ibid., para. 79).

F. Resolution 2017/2: Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Decision 2017/205: Arrangements for the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and special meeting of the Council on international cooperation in tax matters

22. By its resolution 2017/2, the Council decided that, starting in 2017, one session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters would be held in New York in the spring and one in Geneva in the fall, with the session in New York held back to back with the special meeting of the Council on international cooperation on tax matters. By its decision 2017/205, the Council decided that the twelfth session of the Committee would be held in Geneva from 11 to 14 October 2016, the thirteenth session would be held in New York from 5 to 8 December 2016 and the one-day special meeting of the Council on international cooperation in tax matters would be held in New York on 9 December 2016 (A/71/401/Add.1, paras. 3 and 4).

23. The report indicates that resources for the annual session in Geneva are included in the respective budget sections. With respect to the annual session in New York, related requirements for 2016 would be accommodated through the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A. Additional resources in the amount of $508,000 would be required for 2017 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($271,000), and section 9, Economic and social affairs ($237,000), of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., table 1 and paras. 5, 9 and 10).

24. The implementation of the requests contained in resolution 2017/2 and decision 2017/205 would require modifications under section 9, including revisions to recurrent outputs under subprogramme 9, Financing for development (ibid., para. 15).

G. Decision 2017/206: Further working arrangements for the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council

25. In its decision 2017/206, the Council decided that the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up would convene from 22 to 25 May and would include the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

26. Resources relating to conference services for the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up for 2016 would be accommodated through the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A. The Secretary-General requests additional related resources for 2017 in the amount of $48,000 under section 2, General

Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (ibid., paras. 19 and 20).

III. Conclusion

27. In respect of the report concerning the resolutions and the ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its 2016 session (A/71/401), the actions requested of the General Assembly are set out in paragraphs 83 to 89 of the report. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above and in its report supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/71/632), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed additional requirements in the amount of $2,872,200 over and above the approved programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, comprising $360,000 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, $488,600 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, $130,000 under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and $1,893,600 under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia. In this regard, the Committee recommends approval of an additional appropriation of $2,872,200, representing a charge against the contingency fund for 2016-2017. The Committee will consider the related requirements for the biennium 2018-2019 in the context of the related programme budget proposal.**

28. **The Advisory Committee notes that an amount of $57,100 would also be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

29. **The Advisory Committee also recommends approval of the proposal to establish six temporary posts, with effect from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2030, including four temporary posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 Local level) under section 22 and two temporary posts (P-4) under section 19 to support the activities mandated by the Council in its resolutions 2016/10 and 2016/11, respectively.**

30. In respect of the report concerning the resolution and decisions adopted by the Council at its 2017 session during 2016 (A/71/401/Add.1), the actions requested of the General Assembly are set out in paragraphs 28 to 32 of the report. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above and in its report supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/71/632), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed additional requirements in the amount of $556,000 over and above the approved programme budget for 2016-2017, comprising $319,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $237,000 under section 9, Economic and social affairs. The Committee also recommends approval in this regard of an additional appropriation in the amount of $556,000, representing a charge against the contingency fund for 2016-2017. The Committee will consider the**

related requirements for the biennium 2018-2019 in the context of the related programme budget proposal.

31. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations pertaining to the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A and the related appropriation are contained in document A/71/632.